

TOWN OF BENNETT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Jared Polis declared a State of Disaster Emergency as the number of identified COVID-19 cases in Colorado and in the United States increased and announced numerous emergency measures to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Tri-County Health Department has informed the Town of Bennett that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Adams and Arapahoe County is increasing; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bennett is monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 and taking steps to help limit the spread of the disease and prepare for impacts to our community; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Article IX of the Bennett Municipal Code and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* authorize the Mayor of the Town of Bennett to declare an emergency to exist when there is extreme likelihood or danger of destruction of life or property due to unusual conditions; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic may be far in excess of the Town's available resources; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a local disaster emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds, Federal and State assistance, adjustments to policies, procedures, and ordinances to ensure the public's health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety of the Town and its residents to rapidly address community spread of COVID-19 and subsequent cascading impacts, such as economic distress, and to further protect the health and safety of the public by declaring an emergency in the Town of Bennett; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of Bennett, as principal executive officer of the Town of Bennett, is authorized to unilaterally declare a local disaster pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 and Chapter 2, Article IX of the Bennett Municipal Code, to activate the emergency management and operations plans and resolutions of the Town and to make certain findings with respect to the operation of Town business during such emergency.

BE IT NOW THEREFORE, THAT THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF BENNETT DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That there hereby exists a state of emergency with respect to the outbreak of COVID-19 and during such time, the Mayor and Town Administrator are hereby authorized to take such actions as necessary to prevent destruction of life or property. This declaration of local

disaster emergency shall be in effect for seven (7) days unless extended by resolution of the Board of Trustees upon a determination that the emergency conditions continue to exist.

2. The effect of this Declaration shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans, and for the Mayor, Town Administrator, and other appropriate Town staff to exercise those functions and be vested with such authority as set forth in Chapter 2, Article IX of the Bennett Municipal Code and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709.

3. In connection with this declaration of emergency, there are hereby issued the following directives:

a. The Mayor and Town Administrator are hereby authorized to postpone or cancel any and all Town-sponsored events and meetings.

b. The Mayor and Town Administrator are hereby authorized to close or limit public access to Town-owned facilities, including Town Hall.

c. The Mayor and Town Administrator are hereby authorized to cause any or all public meetings of the Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Commission and other Town boards and committees to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means. Resolution No. 664-17 (A Resolution Adopting a Policy for Electronic Participation During Meetings of the Board of Trustees) shall apply to the conduct of any such meetings and shall also apply to meetings conducted by the Planning and Zoning Committee and other Town boards and committees. Further, the Town Administrator shall take reasonable and practical measures to ensure that each such meeting is open to the public at all times, and information is provided to enable the public to participate in such meetings by telephone or other electronic means.

d. The Mayor and Town Administrator may take such other actions they deem necessary for the immediate preservation of health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak, including those actions set forth in Section 2-9-30(3) of the Bennett Municipal Code.

4. Pursuant to the Town of Bennett Finance Policy, goods and services necessary for the immediate preservation of health and safety during the event of a local disaster shall not require compliance with bidding or advertising requirements set forth in the Finance Policy and may be awarded on a sole source basis.

5. This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity, filed immediately with the Town Clerk, and a copy of it shall be sent to the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2020.

TOWN OF BENNETT, COLORADO



Royce D. Pindell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynette White, MMC, Town Clerk